

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

□ 1530

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 326) commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 326

Whereas the Vietnam Veterans Memorial marks the 25th anniversary of its dedication in 2007;

Whereas the Memorial commemorates the sacrifice of more than 58,000 men and women who lost their lives during the Vietnam War;

Whereas the Memorial honors the sacrifice of the 153,303 men and women who were wounded during the conflict;

Whereas the Memorial honors the more than 3,000,000 men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the Memorial has served as a powerful force for national healing;

Whereas over four million people visit the Memorial each year to pay tribute to lost loved ones and remember the sacrifice of those who served the United States during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas the Memorial is a testament to the dedication of the private individuals and corporations that raised \$8,400,000 to build the Memorial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the sacrifice of the men and women who lost their lives in service of the United States during the Vietnam War;

(2) recognizes the service of the men and women who were members of the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

(3) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 326 commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial right here in America's capital city. I thank the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) for bringing this measure before the House.

In capturing the tremendous sacrifice of our servicemembers, this memorial has helped our Nation heal from the losses our communities suffered throughout the Vietnam war. Maya Lin, the wall's designer, created the monument in such a way as to "convey the sense of overwhelming numbers while unifying those individuals into a whole." The Vietnam Memorial is a testament to the ultimate sacrifice those who serve in uniform have made in defense of our Nation.

Over 4 million people visit the memorial each year. No one leaves unaffected by the experience. House Resolution 326 is our way, as Members of the United States Congress and citizens of this great Nation, of taking an important moment to pause in reflection and in gratitude for the freedoms we share today because of the contributions of our brave men and women in uniform in Vietnam.

Let us also take this opportunity to recognize those who are serving us on the front lines of battle in Iraq and Afghanistan and other hotspots around the world. Their sacrifice and devotion to duty continue in today's warriors. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 326 which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The idea of the memorial began in 1977 as a way to make amends for the indifference that had met Vietnam veterans who returned home to this country. It was also conceived as a place of honor for the brave young men and women who served and died in the Vietnam war including, Mr. Speaker, my Pony League baseball teammate, Dick Ulmer, and to give the estimated 43 million Americans, parents, brothers, sisters, wives, husbands and children, and yes, including those of 1st Lieutenant Ulmer of North Augusta, South Carolina, so directly affected by the losses in Vietnam a place to remember, to mourn, to reflect, and hopefully to heal.

Five years later, in 1982, ground was broken for the memorial and the first panel of the Wall, as the memorial is called today, was unveiled. Since that time, the Wall has become not only the most visited memorial on the National Mall with more than 4 million visitors annually, but also a very powerful and a moving place for recollection, solace and comfort for Vietnam veterans and their families.

As a place to honor the more than 58,200 servicemembers who died during

the Vietnam war, and that number is just astounding as we think about the current situation in Iraq; and, of course, we mourn each and every one of those 3,600 lives that have been lost over a 4-year period of time. But Vietnam, 58,200 servicemembers died. The Wall has also become a national symbol of healing and coming together.

In short, the Wall has achieved a purpose and effect well beyond the original purpose, and no one who goes there can escape the emotional, deep impact that it conveys.

Mr. Speaker, it is entirely proper and fitting to commemorate the Wall's 25th anniversary. It honors the selfless sacrifice of not only those who died, but also the service of more than 3 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces in Southeast Asia. And beyond that, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has helped this Nation reunite after one of the most divisive times in this Nation's history. For these reasons and many more, I urge all Members to support this resolution. I look for a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY).

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

I first want to thank Chairmen SKELTON, RAHALL and FILNER for their strong support of this resolution and their continued leadership on issues impacting our veterans.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me and the 108 cosponsors of House Resolution 326 in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

This November marks the 25th year of the memorial's healing presence. As a Nation, we are eternally grateful to the 58,253 men and women who lost their lives because of their service to the United States during the Vietnam war. I particularly want to honor and remember the 709 Oregonians whose names are etched on the Wall for their service to our country. Every time I visit the Wall, I am profoundly moved by their sacrifice. I know my fellow Oregonians and I will never forget them.

As Americans, we must always remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. At a time when we are asking so much of our men and women in uniform, I believe it is vital to show by example that the United States never forgets those who served. Providing a clear demonstration of that gratitude was at the core of constructing the memorial 25 years ago and is the purpose behind this resolution today.

The memorial not only remembers those who gave their lives during the conflict, but also honors the more than 3 million men and women who served in the Armed Forces in Southeast Asia and the 153,303 individuals wounded in action.